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TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

24. (New) A corrosion resistant engine component comprising:
a silicon-based substrate; and
a rare earth silicate thin film coating thereon;
said thin film coating having a thickness sufficient to enhance the corrosion resistance characteristics of such engine component without significantly affecting the thermal characteristics of the engine component, said thickness being in the range of about 1.0 microns and less than 5.0 microns.

25. (New) The component of claim 24 wherein said silicon-based substrate is a silicon nitride substrate.

26. (New) The component of claim 24, wherein said rare earth silicate thin film coating is ytterbium silicate thin film coating.

27. (New) The component of claim 24, wherein said thickness is in the range of about 4.0 to less than 5.0 microns.

28. (New) The component of claim 24 wherein said engine component is a glow plug.

REMARKS

In the Official Communication mailed July 31, 2001, the Examiner notes that the amendment filed by Applicants on June 1, 2001 was non-responsive as not being readable on the elected invention. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for identifying the alleged discrepancy and affording Applicants the opportunity to file a responsive Amendment.